



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**TERESE BERCEAU**  
P.O.Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

## NO BLUE BOOK?

If you requested a free Wisconsin Blue Book but did not receive one, it unfortunately means I ran out. I will contact you when we receive the new, updated Blue Book (about a year from now).

## Budget Update . . . Again!

As I write this, (April 30th) the conference committee is working on a compromise budget plan, but finding few areas of agreement. Here is a comparison of the positions of the majority party in the Assembly and Senate budgets and, in some cases, the position of the Governor if that differs from the Assembly Republican budget:

**Shared Revenue:** Local government officials from around the state were upset by Gov. McCallum's proposal to stop shared revenue payments to local governments. The Assembly Republican version restored some of that money in 2002, but cut the program in 2003. Senate Democrats restored the shared revenue program for both 2002 and 2003.

**Stewardship Fund:** The Assembly Republican budget cuts \$200 million from the Stewardship Program. Senate Democrats maintained current law.

**U. W.:** The Governor's budget cut around \$51 million from the U.W. The Assembly Republican budget increased that to \$108 million. The

Senate Democrats reduced the cuts to \$20 million. (A compromise will probably be around \$70 million.)

The Governor capped tuition at a 10% increase, and the Assembly and Senate budgets capped it at an 8% increase.

**State Employees:** There are numerous unresolved issues. The Assembly Republican budget ends appointments of executive assistants by state agency heads. The Senate Democratic budget does not. The Senate Democratic budget proposes deletion of most Deputy Secretary, Executive Assistant and Division Administrator positions. The Assembly Republican budget does not. The Senate Democratic budget establishes a priority order for layoffs, with unclassified employees to be laid-off before classified. The Assembly Republican budget does not. The Senate Democratic budget proposes an early retirement program. Prospects for this are dim. The Senate Democratic budget also proposes a voluntary furlough program of up to 8 weeks.

The Assembly Republican budget requires a monthly premium contribution for health care benefits, at \$10.00 per month for single, and \$20.00 per month for family plans.

**Milwaukee School Choice:** The Senate Democratic budget caps tuition vouchers at \$2,200 in the first year of the budget and \$1,500 in the second year. The current voucher amount can be up to \$5,400.

**Tobacco Control Board:** The Senate Democratic budget contains an increase from a \$15 million annual appropriation to a \$25 million annual appropriation. This increase was not in the Governor's budget or that of Joint Finance or the Assembly Republican's budget.

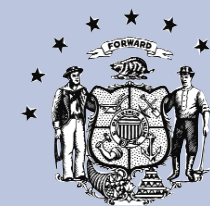
There are, of course, many more issues that are under debate — over 300! Please contact my office if you would like to know the status of these, or any other issue as the process moves along.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Madison, WI  
Permit No. 1749



## How to Reach Me

322 West Wing  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708  
Phone: 266-3784  
Fax: 282-3676  
Rep.Berceau@legis.state.wi.us



**TERESE  
BERCEAU**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## YOUR SURVEY RESULTS

### Dear Neighbor:

Enclosed are the results of the questionnaire that I sent out in March. I received almost two thousand replies, and I am still busy going through them! I am especially thankful for the many helpful comments I received. I really enjoy reading the returns, and many of you wrote that you appreciated the opportunity to give your input.

As I said in my newsletter, most of the questions were based on actual bills that were introduced this year but did not pass both houses. These bills, most likely, will be introduced again next session. Consequently, while this is not a "scientific" survey, I do believe it is an important communication from you to me. Thanks so much to those who were able to participate. If you did not yet find the time, it's never too late to send in your comments, as I will certainly read them.

### Redistricting

By the time you receive this newsletter, a federal court will most likely have decided the new boundaries for state legislative districts. New lines are drawn every ten years, following the census, to reflect population growths and shifts. Due to our rapid growth, Dane County will almost certainly gain an additional representative in the state legislature.

Under the proposed Republican map, I will lose much of my old district, including many neighborhoods that I have represented for 12 years now, both on the County Board and in the Legislature. The Democratic map keeps much of the 76th District intact, but extends farther west into Cherrywood. The judges will most likely draw their own map of Dane and Milwaukee counties because the maps submitted from the parties are so divergent.

Of course I would like to keep my current assembly district as is, but that is unlikely. So this newsletter may be my last to some of you. Should that be so, please know that I have been honored to represent you, and I thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

*Terese*  
Terese Berceau  
State Representative

Visit my website at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm76/news/>  
It contains information on issues, information about me and my legislation, and useful links to government resources.

# A Snapshot of the 76th Assembly District

Taken from 1,986 returned surveys

	Y E S	UNDECIDED	NO
1. Do you support campaign finance reform that requires full disclosure of who is paying for independent political ads, such as those on radio, TV, political flyers, etc.?	96%	1	3%
2. To promote recycling and discourage waste from other states, the Legislature approved a \$3 -a-ton fee on garbage haulers dumping non-recycled garbage in Wisconsin landfills. Business interests have opposed this linkage. Do you support this fee being used to pay for local recycling programs?	90%	6%	4%
3. Do you believe that all drivers should be required to have collision liability automotive insurance?	88%	7%	5%
4. Should first time non-violent drug offenders be sent to a treatment facility instead of prison?	87%	5%	8%
5. Do you believe workers should be paid what they are owed before banks or other creditors when businesses file bankruptcy?	86%	9%	5%
6. Do you support campaign finance reform that would require stricter spending limits?	85%	7%	8%
7. Do you think embryonic stem cell research should continue at the U.W.?	84%	6%	10%
8. Do you support continuation of the Public Benefits Program that invests in energy conservation, and provides aid to low-income ratepayers to heat their homes?	82%	10%	8%
9. Wisconsin ranks 46th in the nation for pay equity for women. Should we require equal pay for equal work, like Minnesota?	79%	9%	12%
10. Do you support a ban on soft money in campaigns, i.e., money spent by third parties (state political parties, corporations, unions) for a candidate?	77%	11%	12%
11. Do you support "Mental Health Parity" which requires health care plans to treat mental illness the same as other illness in terms of treatment coverage?	77%	13%	10%
12. Do you support an increase in the minimum wage?	70%	13%	17%
13. Our family leave law allows people to take time off of work for family and medical reasons. Would you support expanding this law to give working parents up to 16 hours a year of unpaid leave to attend their children's school conferences and activities?	69%	8%	23%
14. Wisconsin has 3,017 units of local government. Do you think reducing and/or consolidating these units of government in largely urban areas (for instance, to increase efficiency and reduce costs of services like police, fire) is an appealing concept?	69%	22%	9%
15. Should voters be required to show their driver's license or a photo ID card in order to vote?	68%	12%	20%

16. Do you support a ban on drilling for oil in the Great Lakes?	66%	13%	21%																																								
17. Do you support providing flexibility under the revenue cap for public schools to deal with rising and unexpected costs?	59%	17%	24%																																								
18. As a means of getting special interest money out of campaigns, would you support 100 % public financing of campaigns?	52%	17%	31%																																								
19. Do you support creating a domestic partnership registry that gives domestic partners the same benefits, rights and responsibilities as married couples?	50%	11%	39%																																								
20. Currently a Wisconsin driver is considered legally intoxicated if his/her blood alcohol content is .10 or greater. Should the level be reduced to .08?	49%	12%	39%																																								
21. Governor McCallum signed a new state requirement that the first day of public school classes must be on or after September 1. Do you support this law?	42%	20%	38%																																								
22. Do you support lowering the drinking age, for beer only, to 18 in Wisconsin?	40%	9%	51%																																								
23. Do you support state funding for four-year-old kindergarten?	33%	12%	49%																																								
24. Should election day be changed to a weekend day?	29%	21%	50%																																								
25. Should election day be made an official holiday?	25%	12%	63%																																								
26. Do you support allowing Wisconsin citizens to carry concealed weapons?	16%	5%	79%																																								
27. How would you describe the cost of tuition at the U.W. Madison?	29% Too High	62% Okay	9% Too Low																																								
28 What do you think is the best method for prescription drug cost relief? <div><div>1. Cap the amount drug companies can charge (as done in the state of Maine) . . . . .</div><div>2. State taxpayer subsidy programs to seniors . . . . .</div><div>3. Incentive programs to encourage use of generic drugs . . .</div><div>4. No change. Don't interfere with the free market economy . .</div></div>	<div>48%</div> <div>14%</div> <div>29%</div> <div>9%</div>	<div>6. Cut highway projects . . . . .</div> <div>7. Cut shared revenues to local governments . . . . .</div> <div>8. Other suggestions . . . . .</div>	<div>17%</div> <div>8%</div> <div>8%</div>																																								
29. Which statement most closely reflects your opinion about abortion? <div><div>1. Abortion should remain legal . . . . .</div><div>2. Abortion should be illegal except if the mother's life is in danger . . . . .</div><div>3. Abortion should be illegal except for rape, incest or if the mother's life is in danger . . . . .</div><div>4. Abortion should be illegal without exception . . . . .</div></div>	<div>76%</div> <div>5%</div> <div>15%</div> <div>4%</div>	<h3>How do you rate your public officials?</h3> <table><tr><th></th><th>VERY GOOD GOOD</th><th>FAIR POOR</th><th>UNDECIDED</th></tr><tr><td>Bush</td><td>42%</td><td>57%</td><td>1%</td></tr><tr><td>Kohl</td><td>69%</td><td>26%</td><td>5%</td></tr><tr><td>Feingold</td><td>83%</td><td>15%</td><td>2%</td></tr><tr><td>Baldwin</td><td>68%</td><td>27%</td><td>5%</td></tr><tr><td>McCallum</td><td>17%</td><td>80%</td><td>3%</td></tr><tr><td>Risser</td><td>50%</td><td>37%</td><td>13%</td></tr><tr><td>Berceau</td><td>73%</td><td>12%</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>Falk</td><td>69%</td><td>22%</td><td>9%</td></tr><tr><td>Bauman</td><td>24%</td><td>70%</td><td>6%</td></tr></table>			VERY GOOD GOOD	FAIR POOR	UNDECIDED	Bush	42%	57%	1%	Kohl	69%	26%	5%	Feingold	83%	15%	2%	Baldwin	68%	27%	5%	McCallum	17%	80%	3%	Risser	50%	37%	13%	Berceau	73%	12%	15%	Falk	69%	22%	9%	Bauman	24%	70%	6%
	VERY GOOD GOOD	FAIR POOR	UNDECIDED																																								
Bush	42%	57%	1%																																								
Kohl	69%	26%	5%																																								
Feingold	83%	15%	2%																																								
Baldwin	68%	27%	5%																																								
McCallum	17%	80%	3%																																								
Risser	50%	37%	13%																																								
Berceau	73%	12%	15%																																								
Falk	69%	22%	9%																																								
Bauman	24%	70%	6%																																								
30. In making budget cuts, which would you favor? <div><div>1. Cut Corporate tax exemptions . . . . .</div><div>2. Cut prison costs . . . . .</div><div>3. Cut K-12 education . . . . .</div><div>4. Cut U.W. budget . . . . .</div><div>5. Cut Medicaid/Badgercare . . . . .</div></div>	<div>34%</div> <div>22%</div> <div>3%</div> <div>7%</div> <div>2%</div>																																										